

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM !!

By Brent R. Amann

The third time was the charm for golf course superintendent David Smith, as he and his staff played host to the season's first golf meeting for the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association. In two previous attempts, Mother Nature played havoc with the day's events at Abbey Springs Golf Club, but this year's event turned out to be a beautiful day.

The nearly 100 players enjoyed lunch, a program from the North America Bluebird Society and a great day of four man scramble. 🏌️

The event winners were:

1.	2.	3.
Mike Lyons	Roy Zehren	Randy Wahler
Brian Feldman	Larry Gorman	Al Pondal
Kris Pinkerton	Jon Whitmyer	Mark Kienert
Brian Schmidt		Andy Kronwall

The on course event winners were:

Closest to the Pin - *Chris Johnson*
Long Drive - *Gordy Waddington*
Long Putt - *Ric Lange*
Closest to the Pin - *Mark Johnson*



Carol McDaniel, VP of the North American Bluebird Society, and her husband John. They are from Darlington, Wisconsin.



Scott Schaller and Warren Close. Warren is on the board of directors of the Bluebird Restoration Society of Wisconsin.



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Snow Mold Control and Summer Disease Management Practices

Jeffrey S. Gregos, Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab,
Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

At this point of the season snow mold is probably the furthest thing from your mind. But, should it be? Last year we embarked on a study to evaluate the efficacy of early applied treatments (beginning of October) followed by a standard snow mold control application at the end of October. This study was initiated to find a substitute for the mercury products that are still heavily used in the northern snow belt of our state. To evaluate the efficacy under several weather conditions and pathogen populations, the study was conducted at six locations across the state. The results obtained were not predicted as we found that these early applications by themselves were sufficient to provide effective control of gray snow mold (*Typhula incarnata*) and Pink Snow Mold (*Microdochium nivale*) at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility. Additionally, treatments applied in the fall for the control of take-all patch were effective in controlling snow molds as well.

The time of year that we currently apply our snow mold controls is not always conducive for spray applications. The possibility of frozen nozzles and, of course, the wonderful Wisconsin winds can lead to misapplications, of which I saw several this winter. With the early application some of the adverse factors are eliminated. When I was applying my early applications this year, I was receiving samples of Bipolaris leaf spot into the diagnostic lab (usually a hot weather disease) and the grass was actively growing. Yes, it was an abnormal winter, but we had gray snow mold active as early as December and there was very little snow cover by then.

Previously I mentioned that the grass was actively growing when the early applications were applied, and my feelings are that this is the major factor in why the early applications are possible. If you remember many of the systemic products are acropetal systemics, or are translocated upwards in the plant. The plant has to be actively photosynthesizing for these products to effectively work. Knowing this, it would not be any surprise that the products that performed the best were acropetal systemics. However, some other chemistries also performed well.

With the advancement of some older chemistries, some products have proven to be even more effective. Products like Daconil Weatherstik and Chipco 26 GT applied early had similar results as the acropetal systemics. A comparison of the early application treatments from the 1997-98 Snow Mold Control trial at the O.J. Noer Facility are provided below.

As seen in the table there is some possibility of combining applications used for warm season diseases with those used for snow mold. This is only the first year of this research, but we are very optimistic about these results. This fall we plan to initiate even earlier applications, such as the middle of September. These applications could fit into a spray program where you are dealing with late season dollar spot, leaf spot, or even some early *Microdochium* patch.

I realize that this would not be an ideal solution for greens, but if you treat fairways it could be a big time
(Continued on page 25)

TABLE 1. 1997-98 Snow Mold Control Evaluation at O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, Verona, WI

Treatment	Trade Name	Formulation	Rate		% Damage 2-18-98			% Damage 3-24-98		
					Mean		S.D.	Mean		S.D.
Chlorothalonil	Daconil	6F	8	FL OZ/1000 FT²	0	f	0	1.3	g	2.5
Iprodione	Chipco 26 GT	2F	6	FL OZ/1000 FT²	0	f	0	2.5	g	2.9
Triadimefon	Bayleton	25 WG	3	OZ/1000FT³	0	f	0	0.0	g	0.0
Azoxystrobin	Heritage	50 WG	0.3	OZ/1000FT²	7.5	def	9.6	8.8	efg	11.8
PCNB	Turcide 400	4 SC	12	FL OZ/1000FT²	3.8	f	4.8	10.0	d-g	7.1
Thiophanate Methyl	Fungo Flo	4.5 SC	1.5	FL OZ/1000FT²	16.3	c	13.8	28.8	b	25.6
Flutolanil	Prostar	50 WP	5	OZ/1000FT²	0	f	0	1.3	g	2.5
Vinclozolin	Vorlan	50 WG	3	OZ/1000FT²	15	cd	12.2	20.0	b-e	11.5
Cyproconazole	Sentinel	40 WG	0.33	OZ/1000FT²	0	f	0	0.0	b	0.0
Cloroneb	Teraneb	65 WP	7.5	OZ/1000FT²	12.5	cde	15	17.5	b-e	17.6
Thiram	Spotrete	75 WG	8	OZ/1000FT²	13.8	cd	15.5	25.0	bc	21.6
Untreated Control					42.5	a	9.6	57.5	a	26.0
LSD (P = .05)								7.8	11.35	

Means followed by the same letter do not significantly differ, LSD (P = 0.05)

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(Continued from page 23)

saver, not to mention a money saver. This would eliminate the need for an additional application in October or November, both saving money in chemical and labor. So this fall, you might experiment with your own fairways and find out that this is a good solution to the number one disease in our state, snow molds.

Authors Note: I would like to thank the Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association for their gracious donation to help support this research. 🌿



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Turfgrass Pathology Position Advertised

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Plant Pathology released the turfgrass faculty position in their department. The job description that was distributed around the country is provided here for your edification:

The University of Wisconsin, is seeking applicants for a full-time, 12-month tenure track faculty position at the Assistant Professor level: 60% research, 40% extension. Qualifications include a Ph.D. in plant pathology or a closely related field with experience in turfgrass research and management desirable. The appointee will develop an innovative research/extension program leading to economically and environmentally sound approaches to control turfgrass diseases. The appointee will develop and maintain extramurally funded research and extension programs, direct graduate students, and participate in the overall education program of the Plant Pathology Dept. and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. This position presents rich opportunities to work in an interdisciplinary environment and to collaborate with faculty, staff and industry in turfgrass and biological sciences. Outstanding field research facilities are offered at the O.J. Noer turfgrass research center in Madison as well as outlying research stations. A curriculum vitae, complete undergraduate and graduate transcripts, a statement of research and extension interests and at least three letters of recommendation should be sent to: W.R. Stevenson, Search and Screen Committee, UW Plant Pathology Dept., 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Tel. (608) 262-6291, FAX (608) 263-2626. Applications received by Sept. 1, 1998 will be assured of consideration. The position is available 1/1/99. The Univ. of Wisconsin, an equal opportunity employer, encourages women and minorities to apply and offers an excellent salary and benefits package.



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Literally O.J. Noer News

By Tom Schwab, Superintendent
O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility
University of Wisconsin-Madison

We had a very interesting visitor at the Noer Facility in May. It was a mystical surprise meeting this person. A nephew of O.J. Noer stopped in to see the facility that was named after his uncle. His name was Peter Vea and his dad's sister was O.J.'s mother. Mr. Vea grew up in Stoughton where he spent lots of time with O.J. Based on the pictures that I've seen of O.J. I think the gentleman even looked like him. Mr. Vea now resides in a nursing home just 10 miles from here. I gave him a tour of the facility and although he was not from the turf profession, he was still very knowledgeable with turfgrass. He said that O.J. used to tell him to use his name any time he wanted to play golf at an elite course in his community. He never did take him up on the offer even though he was aware of the legend his uncle had in the golf turf profession.

It has been an impressive and fun spring at the Noer Facility this year. A flurry of activity occurs daily. Plots are being changed into new and better investigations quicker than Utah eliminated LA. More glyphosate has been used this spring than in my previous three summers at Noer combined, and the rototiller is being used almost daily by someone establishing a new plot. 28 of our 79 irrigated plots are in one stage or another of being reestablished. Other plots that are not being reestablished are getting more intensive treatments or observations covering them. Wayne Kussow and his crew have been installing extensive weather and environmental sensing equipment on his plots for many days this spring. John Stier has a huge crew helping him install new experiments and record data. Likewise, Jeff Gregos and his worker are establishing many new plots. Mike



Mr. Vea resembles his uncle — O.J. Noer.

Casler is installing his first trial at Noer this spring. He'll be investigating different bentgrass clones and their competitiveness with *Poa annua*. There will be so much new informa-



Peter Vea, O.J. Noer's nephew, was a Noer Facility visitor in May!

tion to report on Wisconsin's turf research efforts this year that you'll definitely want to attend Summer Field Day on August 12, and Turf and Greenscape EXPO next January.

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Roger McFarland, Wild Bill Hart and Dr. Wayne Kussow installing new environmental sensing equipment.

As a result of the furious activity, the facility is on the move again. The Noer Facility is quickly running out of plot space to install new investigations. Out of the 79 irrigated plots reported earlier, only 2 are not spoken for. We are getting plans drawn up to expand our present irrigation system but still the land to expand is very limited. There will be a new turf



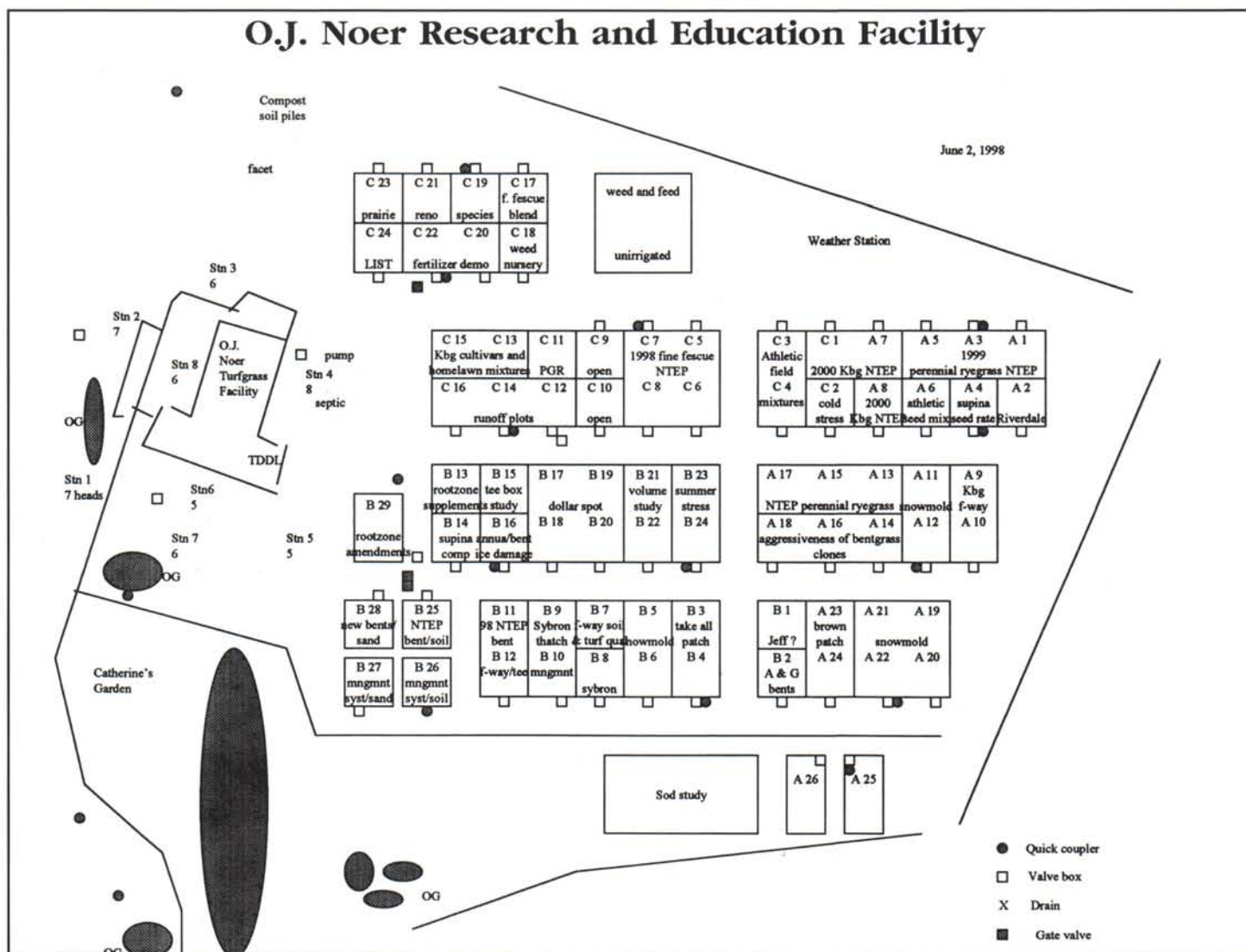
Jeff Gregos working on one of his masters degree projects.

pathologist hired at the UW-Madison within the year who will also be looking for land to conduct research. Yet there is good news to report about the needed facility expansion. The land surrounding Noer will soon be in the hands of the UW-Madison Athletic Department for their plans to expand University Ridge. We have an excellent relationship with the athletic

department and already have a verbal commitment for them to grant us some new land for present needs with the idea that more land will come after they finalize their expansion plans. They like being associated with the research facility as much as we enjoy being associated with the golf course, especially with the great reviews they received hosting the 1998 NCAA Ladies Championship in May. Superintendent Jeff Parks did an exemplary job hosting the prestigious event.

WSTMA Inaugural Meeting - July 22

I reported an incorrect date in the last Grass Roots that I'd like to remedy. The date of the newly forming Wisconsin Sport Turf Managers
(Continued on page 29)



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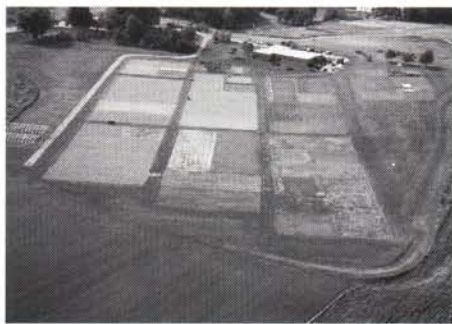
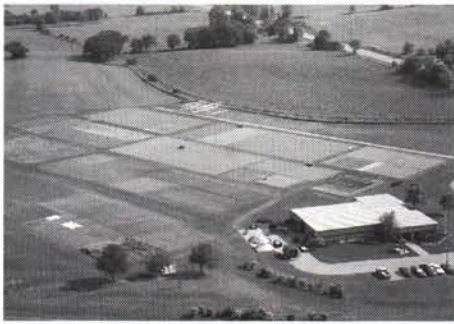
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Three aerial views of renovations at the Noer Facility, looking north (1), south (2), and west (3). While in the air, we flew over our neighbor, University Ridge, and the course's photogenic 16th hole.



(Continued from page 27)

Association's (WSTMA) inaugural meeting has been changed to July 22nd, not June 24th as stated in the last issue. The location of this first meeting is going to be the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. This meeting will, among other things, observe whether there is an interest in forming this new turf organization in Wisconsin. Preliminary comments from many athletic field managers are that there is a definite need for such an organization. Benefits would be to:

- Gain information on maintaining safe, useful, and admirable sports fields
- Enhance professionalism in athletic field management
- Share ideas and expertise with peers

Basically these are the same ideas WGCSA provides to its members, only towards a different kind of turfed field. A mailing was sent out in early June with registration material for this meeting. If you know of anyone that manages athletic fields for the local schools or parks in your area or for other reasons has interest in this organization, then please inform them to attend. They may have been missed in our first attempt to compile a WSTMA mailing list. They can call the Noer Facility for registration or other information at 608-845-6536. The industry will be stronger through the addition of another branch of professional turfgrass managers. 🍷



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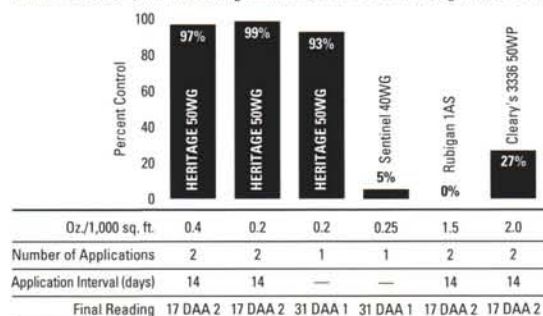
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Anthracnose¹ (*Colletotrichum graminicola*) on 80% Annual Bluegrass, 20% Perennial Ryegrass

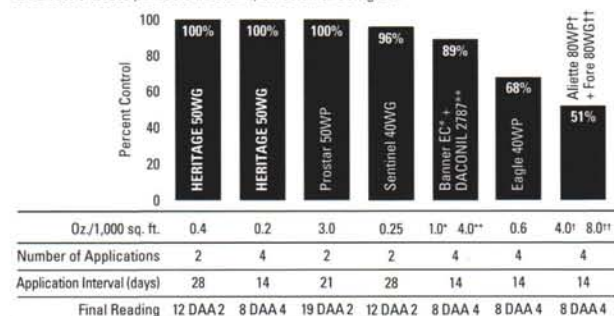


Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995

US 67-95-P354

¹ Also isolated from plots: 2 species *Rhizoctonia*; 3 species *Pythium*; and several species *Curvularia*.

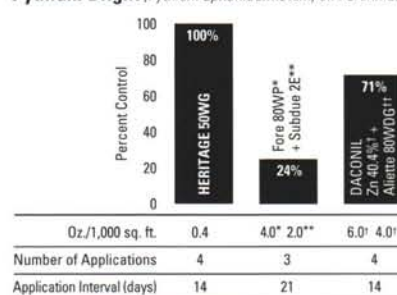
Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) on Colonial Bentgrass



Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State University, 1994

US 66-94-P356

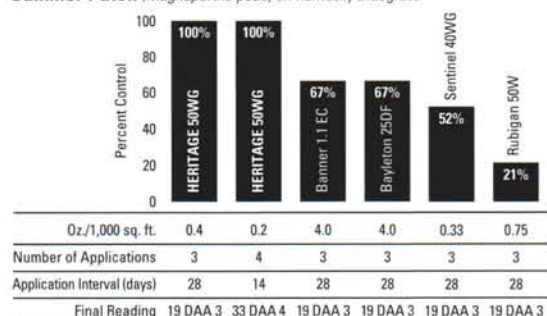
Pythium Blight (*Pythium aphanidermatum*) on Perennial Ryegrass



Dr. John Watkins, University of Nebraska, 1996

USNP-96-P030

Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) on Kentucky Bluegrass



Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994

US 66-94-P362

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